extended attributes

The magazine of the OS/2 community

In this issue

Features

This month, we have a trio of articles to introduce you to burning CDs with OS/2.

Departments

Software

Society news

CD Cover? CD-RW!
Concept and photography by Bill Schindler.

Mail bonding

What happened to the discussion list?

by Bill Schindler, Editor-in-chief

The machine that was mailer.bmtmicro.net (where the mail lists and possi.org email lives... lived) had its hard drive crash and burn. Thomas (BMT's commander-in-chief) spent part of the week before Christmas trying to recover the machine, gave up, and spent Christmas day moving what he could to mail.bmtmicro.com. This machine is running a completely different email server and list server.

Since the list server changed, we needed to re-subscribe everyone. Through the magic of REXX, XML, and XSLT, I collected the email IDs for everyone who posted a message to the discussion list since late October. That produced a list of over 100 people. I generated subscribe requests for that group of people. (That's why some of you received the mysterious "AUTH-SUB" message saying that you'd sub-scribed to the list.)

Get me back!

If you didn't get a subscribe message, you will need to manually re-subscribe to the various POSSI lists.

The subcribe instructions on the lists page at www.possi.org have changed. For now, there's no Web-based subscription — you subscribe by sending an email message to:

<majordomo@bmtmicro.com>

And in the *body* of the message put:

subscribe discussion@possi.org

(Any text in the message's subject is ignored.) The list sends an authorization message before actually performing the subscribe.

Unsubscribing works the same way, except that you use:

unsubscribe discussion@possi.org

Posting to the list seems to be open for now (i.e. you don't have to be subscribed to the list to post a message). But you do have to be subscribed to receive messages. So, some of the tests and other messages that come through (and any replies) may not be seen by the people posting them.

The old list server was also managing Warpcast, the Supersite lists, and several others. If you're wondering what happened to these lists, they went the same way as POSSI's discussion list. You'll need to check into re-subscribing for any of those lists, too.

Other changes

Because nobody could get the Internet connection at the KDC to work, the HOW GIG and net.sig moved to another location. Check with Sam MacDonald <samemac@attglobal.net> for directions. Note that the time has changed, also.

Finally, the general meeting may be moving to a different location. Check the Web site and the discussion list before the next meeting. ☻

Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc

The Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc (POSSI) is an international organization of computer users with an interest in IBM's OS/2 operating system and related issues.

Q&A: Tune your guitar with OS/2

by David W. Noon

Q I'm looking for a guitar tuner for Warp. Can REXX generate musical notes? Looking at the OS/2 Warp documentation, it can't; it can only control devices. I need to be able to generate six notes, but I really don't want to dive in to programming for the SoundBlaster.

A Sure, you can do this. Here is a short REXX program I wrote a year or so ago when another OS/2 user asked on a BBS network. The user interface is not all that pretty, but it works. You just press a number key from 1 to 6 for a note; press ESC to terminate. 🎸

```
/* GUITAR.CMD */
/* REXX program to sound notes for tuning a guitar to E       */
/* Author: David W. Noon, December 1999                       */
/* You may use this code freely, and redistribute it provided the   */
/* original copyright caveat is retained and no charge is levied    */
/* beyond the price of its distribution medium.               */
/* No warranty is expressed or implied as to the suitability of this*/
/* software to perform any given task, nor will the author accept   */
/* liability for any damage or loss incurred by its use.      */
/* Copyright (C) 1999, David W. Noon. All rights reserved.    */
/* Register REXXUTIL.DLL */
CALL RxFuncAdd 'SysLoadFuncs','REXXUTIL','SysLoadFuncs'
CALL SysLoadFuncs
DO FOREVER
  Key_stroke = SysGetKey('NOECHO')
  SELECT
    WHEN Key_stroke == '1' THEN    /* High E */
        CALL BEEP 659,1000         /* 659 Hz */
    WHEN Key_stroke == '2' THEN    /* B */
        CALL BEEP 494,1000         /* 494 Hz */
    WHEN Key_stroke == '3' THEN    /* G */
        CALL BEEP 392,1000         /* 392 Hz */
    WHEN Key_stroke == '4' THEN    /* D */
        CALL BEEP 294,1000         /* 294 Hz */
    WHEN Key_stroke == '5' THEN    /* A */
        CALL BEEP 220,1000         /* 220 Hz */
    WHEN Key_stroke == '6' THEN    /* Low E */
        CALL BEEP 165,1000         /* 165 Hz */
    WHEN Key_stroke == '1B'X THEN /* Terminate on ESC */
        LEAVE
    OTHERWISE
        NOP /* Ignore anything else */
  END
END
EXIT 0
```
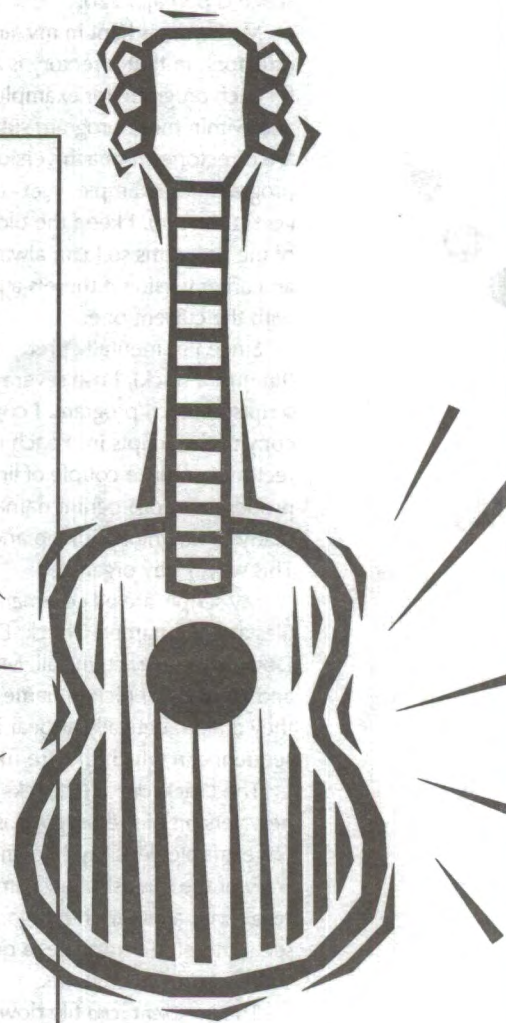
Duck Tales: Download Scripts

by Webfoot, the Duck and his pal Pete

I keep a separate library of the software I download, so that I always have the original zip and unzipped files. It's real handy when setting up a new machine and disk space is incredibly cheap so the cost of the entire library's hard drive space is perhaps $20.

My library is kept in my \os2duck.src directory. In that directory is a directory for each program (for example, wget.src), and within these program subdirectories are directories for each version of the program (for example, wget-153.src and wget-1532.src). I keep the older versions of the programs so I can always revert to an earlier version if there's a problem with the current one.

Since I'm mentally pretty scattered (I'm just a duck), I use several download scripts for each program. I copy a master copy of the scripts into each new subdirectory, modify a couple of lines with the proper url and program name, and I'm ready to download, unzip and install. This way, I stay organized.

My scripts are all command (CMD) files and are named Check, Document, Download, Extract, Install, MovePgm, and Uninstall. I picked names so that they'd alphabetically appear in the sequence in which they're run.

The Check.cmd file checks to see if a new version of the program is available. For example, let's say I downloaded a copy of the fun astrology game, Duck-Power.zip, a few months ago. If I want to see if there's an upgrade, a quick click on Check.cmd will tell me.

The Document.cmd file downloads the program's HTML Web page, any subpages, Hobbes' .txt explanation file, reviews of the software, whatever. This is really handy when you're trying to get a program running on a new machine and the readme file is a bit on the short side. The documentation files are put into a Documentation subdirectory (such as wget-153.src\Documentation).

```
@echo off
:: The Document command file downloads program documentation prior to
:: downloading the program file, including the HTML web pages which
:: describe the program.
:: THIS IS THE MASTER FILE. USE IT TO CREATE OTHER Document.cmd FILES.
ECHO DOCUMENT.CMD NOT CONFIGURED YET
PAUSE
GOTO ENDOFCMD
:: ModeWget.cmd runs "mode 90,40" so I can see more lines on my 1600x1200
:: screen. It's not necessary.
call modewget
if not exist documentation md documentation
cd documentation
:: WGET: -c continue getting a partial file
:: -a append log file
:: -S log server responses
:: -nd no directories (put everything in the current directory)
:: -r recursive retrieval
:: -l recursion levels
:: -I include in the download only this comma separated list of directories
:: -np no parent directory retrieval
:: -x create subdirectory structure
:: -nH no host directory, i.e. do not create a "www.sourcehost.com"
::      directory
:: -follow-ftp
:: -t try this many times
:: NOTE: NEED TO MODIFY PARAMETERS SO IMAGE FILES (.GIF, .JPG) ARE ALSO
:: DOWNLOADED.
:: Note: For recursive retrieval (to get documents that the first document
:: references), use "-r."
:: Note: To download only a specific path of files, use "-I" (without the
:: domain name itself)
:: Note: To never go up the source site's path, use "-np."
:: Example: To download one single html page without its graphics, use
:: par=-c -acon -S -t5
:: Example: To download an html page and all pages it references that are
:: in the same or a subdirectory, and to put all of these files into the
:: current directory no matter what the original directory structure
:: was, use
:: par=-c -acon -S -nd -r -np -t5
:: Example: To download one or more specified files (such as a home
:: page plus its known graphics files), use the usual
:: set par=-c -acon -S -t5
:: and then
:: set par=%par% -x -nH
set par=-c -acon -S -t5
:: Note: (discovered during StarOffice download)
:: -replace all "&" characters with "%26" since OS/2 thinks an
```

`Download.cmd` runs wget and puts the zip file into a subdirectory which I tag as ".1." My downloaded files always go into ".1" and are unzipped into ".2." Sometimes a zip file contains another zip file, and when I unzip that one it goes into ".3." Thus, `wget-153.src\wget-153.1\` contains the zip file.

My master `Download.cmd` file uses "###" in several places for the program name, so a quick search-and-replace makes it ready for use. I use wget as my downloader because it handles both ftp and http downloads. If you decide to use wget, you'll also need to install the EMX runtime files. (Both Wget and EMX are on Hobbes.)

`Extract.cmd` unzips the file into the ".2" subdirectory.

`Install.cmd` is a bit tricky, because there are so many different ways that programs may want to be installed. There might be DLLs, there might be an `Install.exe` program, there might be a reboot requirement. My master `Install.cmd` file contains the code for everything, and I just make the necessary modifications, add any appropriate lines and delete what I don't need.

`MovePgm.cmd` moves the program files. It's handy if you suddenly get the bright idea to put all your programs into an Apps directory or move the office-oriented programs to Office. For many programs, this is a straightforward task, and I usually don't move my programs, so I haven't spent much time adding robustness to this particular CMD file.

`Uninstall.cmd`, the last of my scripts, runs the program's uninstall feature or, more often, just deletes the installed files.

I'm including some of my CMD master files. I hope that reading through the code will help you organize your own disk and downloads. 🐭

```
::  ampersand is a separator between commands.
::  -replace all "=" characters with "%3D" since OS/2 doesn't like an
::  "=" in the line either.
::  -replace all "?" characters with "%3F" since wget will if you
::  don't (it will show you this change before starting the
::  download).
rem -The online Help for SET says don't use = <  |
::  Also note that, since this is a command file, the "%" symbols must be
::  doubled so they don't look like a parameter replacement ("%1", "%2" etc.)
::  or an environment value replacement (like %path% or %url%).
::  Thus, "&" becomes "%%26", etc.
::  Note: To download all files in a subdirectory, specify "/subdir/*."
::  If you exclude the trailing "*" you won't get the files.
::  Password and Username:
::  From the wget manual:
::  To encode your username and password within a URL, use:
::  ftp://user:password@host/path
::  http://user:password@host/path
::  -Example: ftp://webfoot:duckie@www.scoug.com
::  -Either username or password, or both, may be left out.
::  -If you leave out either the HTTP username or password, no authentication
::  will be sent.
::  -If you leave out the FTP username, anonymous' will be used.
::  -If you leave out the FTP password, your email address will be supplied
::  as a default password.
::  WARNING: Be sure to make the above character changes in the following SET
::  command(s).
set url=http://###/###.html
wget %par% %url% 2&1 | tee -a log.err
cd ..
:ENDOFCMD
```

Of OOPSs and UPS's

by Armin Schwarz

Several recent discussions on the POSSI discussion list about surge protectors and UPSs (uninterruptible power supplies) reminded me of an episode from a few years ago, when I installed OS/2 on an industrial computer. I would like to share my experiences, and I hope this article shows how important computer equipment protection is.

A simple installation. Right?

One Friday morning, during the hottest days of July, I took off some time to install OS/2 on one computer for an automation project I was working on. My colleague had asked me to write software for his project, and I had told him that I'd do it if I could use OS/2.

I'd installed OS/2 successfully on an identical industrial computer a few months earlier, so I figured that it would be an enjoyable hour on a lazy, hot Friday morning. The computer did not need a CD-ROM for day to day operations, so I temporarily connected a generic IDE unit to the hard disk cable.

No operating system had been previously installed. The task of partitioning the hard disk went without problem. At 10:30am, I began to install OS/2. No network support was needed and within a few seconds the install was moving along. The CD-ROM light was happily lighting up and I took time to chat with the technicians in the lab about the finer things in life. Forty minutes later, the CD-ROM light was still going strong, but the install was progressing. Finally, after fifty minutes the install was complete and I rebooted. OS/2 booted up without any problems.

After lunch, I set out to customize the settings. I needed EPM on the desktop. I created a shadow and proceeded to open it. I got an error message immediately: "Program not found!" I set out to search for the EPM executable, and couldn't find it anywhere on the disk. I tried other basic applications and started getting errors about executables and DLL libraries not found. Eventually the system froze with errors I had never seen before. Simple enough, I thought, and proceeded to clear out the OS/2 partition to completely reinstall it. After all, it would take only about 30 minutes to transfer over the files.

After 50 minutes, the CD-ROM was still spinning along and the install wasn't even close to being finished. I started wondering: maybe the CD-ROM drive needs to be grounded properly, rather than just temporarily placing it on top of the half opened cover. After 70 minutes, the install was complete. Upon reboot, just about every line in the config.sys produced an error. Device drivers and DLL

were not found and the system didn't boot at all. At this point I really had spent more time than initially planned!

Again, I cleaned out the hard disk, grounded the CD-ROM drive properly and reinstalled from scratch. Again, the CD-ROM light stayed on for too long.

Time for a break, I figured, and left the system doing its thing. It had gotten hotter outside. In the breakroom, there was talk of certain computer operated production systems shutting down, while other equipment worked just fine. One system causing problems happened to be designed by me, and by default was my responsibility for the rest of my life. Questions and comments too personal to mention started flying. All this didn't help the attempt to stay cool, with the heat wave going on outside.
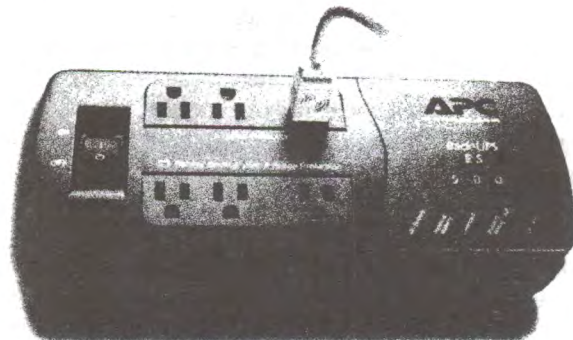
Finally, a maintenance person in charge of power distribution mentioned that the area had been experiencing a constant brown-out since about 11:00am. He said that the line power measures at 107VAC and that this should really not have any serious effect on equipment which is typically designed to work for a wide range anyway.

Wire they doing this to me?

Ahhh! After hearing about the brown-out, all the unexplained shutdowns of certain computer operated systems started to make sense to me.

The computer systems in question were all connected to small UPSs set to switch over to battery at line voltages of 108VAC or lower. The batteries would only last approximately ten minutes and I had selected these to protect the computers from short, nasty power glitches the factory was constantly experiencing. The line power was most likely fluctuating, causing the UPS to switch between line and battery, thus prolonging complete shutdown past the ten minutes.

Now, the system on which I tried to install OS/2, was not on an UPS. I measured the line power: 107.5VAC. I aborted the install (it was still going on, after nearly an hour and a half). I concluded that the low input power caused the power supply to drop its output voltage enough to compromise data transfer between CD-ROM and hard disk and most likely between memory and hard disk without any obvious indication of power problems. The input and output power signals were still high enough to not affect the "Power Good" line to the motherboard and perform a power-down.

By the way, no building lights were flickering during the entire duration of the brown-out to give indication of any power problems.

Luckily, the power and my fun Friday project returned to normal at 3:00pm. I measured a full 119.5VAC on the outlet where the OS/2 system was plugged in. I reformatted the hard disk again, and installed OS/2 without any incident in less than 30 minutes.

Powerful lesson

UPSs provide effective, inexpensive protection for your hardware and most importantly your data stored on it. Had I run my system on a UPS, I would probably never have noticed the brown-out, and it would have saved me a lot of grief. Most UPSs protect against over-voltage, under-voltage, surges and turn off and stay off or automatically restart after battery runs low. Even the smallest UPS protects the equipment during power bumps and prolongs the life of the hard disks which are the parts most vulnerable during power on or off.

This OS/2 system is still in operation. A year later, it survived a nasty power bump during a freak tornado touch-down only a few miles away. The last time I inspected the UPS Monitor log file, it showed that the system had not turned off or rebooted in over a year and a half. There are however quite a number of "UPS on Battery" entries that lasted only 1 or 2 seconds. What kind of damage that prevented remains unknown.

To be fair, I should mention that most UPSs do not need software to operate. They work just fine by themselves. However, your operating system will not be informed that batteries are low and shutdown is imminent during long power outages. This may be fine for DOS systems, but protected mode operating systems, like OS/2, require proper shutdown to prevent damage to system files. 🖉

This episode prompted Armin Schwarz to write UPS Monitor for OS/2. He sleeps much better at night knowing that this system protection actually works. His Lone Peak Automation website can be found at `http://home.att.net/~ASchw`

The ABM Conspiracy

by David Both

I part of the ABM conspiracy. This is a difficult conspiracy to be a member of. Most people don't realize it is there, and the few who do find it excruciatingly painful to belong.

I am talking about the Anything But Microsoft (ABM) conspiracy. This is the conspiracy that we few, we dedicated, we despisers of anything that says Microsoft on it, struggle with every day.

We go to great lengths to avoid using a Microsoft product. We use little known and under-appreciated operating systems, like OS/2 Warp, just so we won't have to use an operating system with the name Windows in it. Or one that crashes so often that a two acre cube farm can look like a blue-light-special convention. (One morning recently, the government agency to which I am on contract to maintain the mail system had so many Blue Screens of Death that the place looked radioactive.)

We use software like StarOffice to keep from using Microsoft Word. (Word is the only word processing software I know of that can turn a five page text-only document into a file so large that most mail systems reject it for being over the incoming file size limit.).

And I am an MCP on Windows NT!

Resolutions

It is 01/01/01 as I write this. I have a resolution to share with you.

I resolve to keep fighting the Redmond Menace to my last dying breath. Well, I guess that is a bit melodramatic, but you get the idea.

Fortunately, in addition to being an MCP, I also hold a number of other certifications including several for OS/2, Solaris and, by the time you read this, probably a Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHCE).

Job Hopping

I have changed jobs a few times in the last five years. After doing a couple years of independent consulting, I worked for a large telecommunications firm for two years. I used NT every day and got my MCP. They were not taking my career where I wanted to go, so I left.

I then spent several months at a self-proclaimed Application Service Provider which did not have a single ASP-like product. I could see the handwriting on the wall when the company (with over 700 employees when I hired on) was down to 300 ten months later. Fortunately, I was already looking for a job when they laid off 80 more of us.

For the last few months I have been working on contract at the State of North Carolina. We have a very inter-

esting email system that has kept me busy and taught me a lot about Solaris because that is the platform it runs on.

Opportunity Knocks

My wife and I were in the North Carolina mountains on our way to my parents for Thanksgiving when the call came on my cell phone. Red Hat had seen my resume on the Web and wanted to interview me. "Cool," I thought. "Why not?" So I did. I start at Red Hat as an instructor the second week of January.

What a neat place to work. Everyone I met has a sense of mission. A real excitement pervades the place. It is a place dedicated to giving people a choice of operating systems. There is a camaraderie at Red Hat that I have not felt in a long time except for the little band of OS/2 users that I count as my friends.

Red Hat is a place I want to be because a huge number of fellow ABM conspirators are there. I feel right at home.

Good news/bad news

The good news is that I will be working with a great operating system. I will be training, which is something I love to do. And I will be travelling which I also love.

The bad news is that I will be travelling a lot which means that I have had to make some difficult choices.

One of the things I can no longer find the time for is this column so I take this opportunity to say goodbye. I have enjoyed writing this column and, based on the email that I have received, I have been able to assist at least a few of you in some small way.

I thank you for reading this column even when I was whining about something or other. I thank you for your loyalty and dedication to OS/2.

I will continue to use OS/2 for the foreseeable future. I will continue to provide the "DataBook for OS/2 Warp" and will continue to add to it.

Thanks POSSI volunteers

I also want to thank all of the POSSI volunteers without whom this publication and the many other POSSI activities would be impossible. THANK YOU!

In addition to thousands of OS/2 facts and tips, I have a great deal of information about all versions OS/2 Warp in my online "DataBook for OS/2 Warp." I am also starting the "DataBook for Linux."

You can check out the "DataBook for OS/2 Warp" and order it from my web site at www.millennium-technology.com.

Forum letter
The OS/2 users' guide to Compuserve

by Samuel Little

In my last article, I showed you how to get into Compu-Serve's IBM Forum without joining CompuServe (CS). Now, I'll delve a little deeper into Forum features and limitations.

Messaging

First, let's take a look at how messaging works on CS Forums.

Each message is given an incremental message number. This number is the primary identifier for the message and is used for two special purposes.

The first use is to keep track of messages you have seen, or opted not to see. Any time you view messages, the High Message Number (HMN) is updated in your Forum profile when you leave the Forum. When you return to the Forum, messages with numbers lower than the HMN are hidden from you, so you don't have to wade through messages you've previously viewed or ignored.

The second use is for "threading" messages. A "thread" is a tree containing a starter message and its replies. All messages in a thread have the same topic heading, though more than one thread can have the same topic. The parent message number links a reply to the message being replied to. There are also thread numbers which can be used to directly access entire threads.

At the bottom of any reply is a link to its parent ("This is a reply to a message from...") If the parent message's number is higher than your HMN, a link will also be visible in the message tree on the lower left.

You browse messages by burrowing from Section to Topic (upper left pane of the main area), to message tree (lower left) to message (right). Note the links at the bottom of the various panes. They can be useful, particularly "Show all of the older messages" in the tree pane. You'll notice the names in the message header are also links. These display the users' name, screen name and interests, along with a "Contact" button which can be used to create a new message to that person.

There is also, of course, a search facility for messages.

Replying to a message is primarily a matter of hitting the Reply button at the bottom and filling in the form.

Formatting messages is pretty basic. What you type in is what the user sees. The Enter key generates the equivalent of a
 HTML tag. There's no way to force a monospace font in Web view for tables and such. The non-Web Forum interfaces theoretically have something slightly more sophisticated, but isn't consistently applied, and the formatting of "preformatted" data in Web view... well, isn't preformatted.

Forums allow messages to be public or private, though some Forums disable private messages. Private messages are visible only to the sender and the recipient; but use them sparingly, as they reduce the number of message slots available to public messages. Replies to private messages are likewise forced to be private. A third option for privacy is to forward replies to the recipient's email. In general, keeping discussion public is highly encouraged—the help you give one person may help someone else.

User interface differences

If your screen is more than 640x480 pixels, you will probably find that the message entry window is annoyingly small. Fortunately, you can change this through the Message Options dialog. There are essentially three entry box size options optimized for 640x480, 800x600, and 1024x768 or larger screens (assuming that Netscape is maximized).

One thing available to Web View users that isn't available to those using other access software is the "waiting message" notification in email. When you check the box, the first reply to a message will cause Compuserve to send a message to the email address associated with your Screen Name, telling you that you have one or more waiting messages and providing a URL to access that first reply, the thread, or the Forum. You may receive additional replies to that message, but will not be notified of their existence. You also have the option of changing the default for waiting message notification through Message Options.
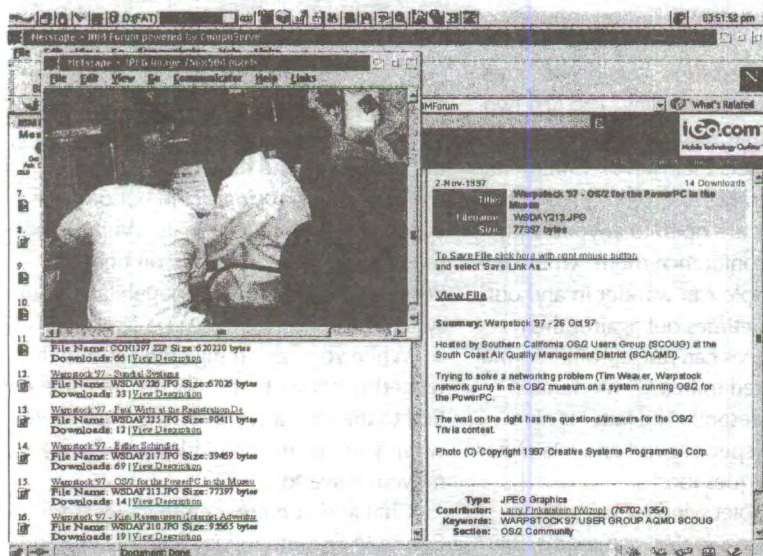
If, when you enter a Forum, messages are addressed to you that you haven't received yet, a message just below the banner will tell you how many messages are waiting. Clicking on this message will provide you with a list.

While Forum settings are stored on the server, message options are stored in cookies on your local hard drive and apply to all CS Forums. If you've disabled cookies, these settings will only last for the duration of your session. To use the waiting message notification in selected instances, you will need to enable or disable this option at the message level as appropriate. These cookies expire after a while (last I checked, every two months or so), so you need to reset these options periodically.

Starting a discussion

Starting a new discussion by clicking on "Create Message" is fairly easy, but there a few decisions to make along the way, such as in what section to post the message, the title to give it (24 character limit) and to whom to send it.

Most commonly, a message is addressed to All, but you can also address a message to Sysop (in which case the message will be retrieved by the first Forum Sysop collecting waiting messages), to another user, or to the special *Sysop address. This last directs the message to a Wizop as a private message (only you and the Forum Wizop(s) can see the message) and is used sparingly, such as to report Terms of Service violations or to request access to a closed section. Refer to the Forum's guidelines to learn when it's appropriate to address a message to *Sysop.

Sending to another member is a little more involved. In the Send To drop-down list, select "Other Member." If you have the member's Screen Name handy, you can enter that directly (no address book facility is available in Web View), or search for a member from the link at the top right. It is probably easier to find a message from the

person and use the "Contact this member" link from the user profile page.

File management

Given the way messages work, using the file library should be fairly straightforward to follow, but you may want to be aware of a few things.

Each entry in the file summary on the left has two links: one through the title and "View description" at the end. The latter brings up the full catalog entry on the right; the former does the same but also tries to load the file into a child window. This is nice for browsing images and small text files, but can be a bit of a shock when you hit an executable or a DLL file.

Unlike most Web sites, CompuServe doesn't use a download button; instead, it forces you to use the left-click, Save-Link-As procedure. Depending on your browser, the guess as to what to call the local file is often wrong.

You can contribute files to the libraries (assuming you have permission from the file author) using a JavaScript tool. As I mentioned in the last article, files are checked first by a Sysop before they are publicly available.

Live chat

The Chat Applet provides three different kinds of live conversation: one-on-one chat, group chat and conferencing. The first two are private, in that who participates is controlled by the users themselves. Conferencing is a bit different.

Conferences are open to anyone with access to the "conference room" where it is being held. People can wander in and out at will (and sometimes out against their will!). Conferences can range from informal and unmoderated to heavily moderated (with a Sysop present). The latter is nice when there is a special guest and lots of participants asking questions.

The main applet window is a tabbed notebook showing conference rooms, who

is in the Forum (and what room they are in, if any), who is available to chat and a settings tab.

Unfortunately, a lot of the settings are unavailable or have no effect under Netscape for OS/2. For example, the font options are Internet Explorer only. And, while the logging options are enabled, they're ignored because there's no way to grant system access to the applet. You can change your chat "nickname" (yes, yet another name), and enable a tracking window which tells you who has entered and left the Forum and/or conference rooms, but these are the only two options I ever change.

Entering a room or initiating chat opens another window. You can have several chats going on simultaneously, but you can be in only one conference room at a time.
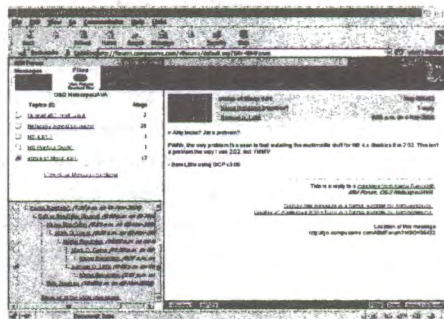
All work on the same principle: type in your message, and hit Enter to send. Messages appear in the top viewpane. To review messages that have already scrolled, the Pause/Resume button can keep the screen from bouncing to the bottom whenever a new message appears. Which buttons appear depend largely on how the Forum is set up and what capabilities your system has.

While you can arrange the various chat-related windows that show up, they are all tied to the chat advertisement window. So, when you move that window, all the others move relative to it.

Chat and conference use varies from Forum to Forum, and isn't widely used on

the IBM Forum at the present time, but it isn't unheard of.

Miscellany

If you monitor the Who's Here or tracking window, you'll notice a number of people pop in and out of Forums rather quickly. Most often, these are CompuServe "classic" members taking advantage of the off-line reader capabilities of their software to grab messages and files quickly for viewing later.

Some Forums allow a limited "guest" entry into Forums without using a Screen Name. For the IBM Forum, this would be through the URL http://forums.compuserve .com/gvforums/default.asp?SRV=IBMForum &loc=us. Through the guest URL, you are usually able to view selected message and file sections, and sometimes even attend conferences, but you cannot post messages, contribute files, chat (outside conferences), or change your name. Additionally, no HMN is set, and you see only the first name and initial of the members.

I've used the IBM Forum because that's where OS/2 is discussed, but there are hundreds of other Forums. A good place to look for them is at www.mythicalcity.com. Watch the parameters on the links (particularly "?loc=US"), as they aren't consistently applied.

This should be more than enough to help you use and enjoy the best CompuServe Forums have to offer. Enjoy! 🖰

Messaging Tips & Tricks

Looking at older messages: You can specify that you want to see messages from a specific date, using the Message Options dialog. This change remains active only during your current message browsing session unless you uncheck the "This session only" box. *Never do that!* Clicking on any of the buttons at the top reset your HMN back to where it was before. To browse other message sections with the same starting date in place, be sure to use the "View other Message Sections" link at the bottom of the topic window rather than the View Sections button at the top.

Viewing tables: copying and pasting into a text editor is your best bet to make tables more readable.

Session timeouts: CS Forum sessions time out after a system-specified time, currently about 30 minutes. This doesn't affect processes already started, such as file downloads and chat, but bite when you attempt to click on a link.

This timeout has a nasty habit of occurring while you're busy typing in a lengthy reply, the result being another login dialog and losing your hard work. If you've been in the Forum for a while, and expect to spend some time working on a reply or anticipate being interrupted, it's a good idea to print out the message, leave the Forum, and create a reply off-line in a text editor. You can get directly to the message you're replying to by adding an &MSG=msgn-mbr parameter to the Forum URL, then simply paste your reply into the entry box.

General Forum etiquette: Although messages tend to be addressed to somebody in particular, don't be shy about jumping into a conversation. If a discussion was meant to be private, the discussion would be private or taken to email.

Also, because of the long-standing threaded nature of CS Forums, where most clients have easy mechanisms to see a parent message, "quotebacks" (repeating the message you are responding to) are generally kept to a minimum. A good rule of thumb is to quote back only pieces of a message to which you are specifically responding for clarity. For your convenience, a copy of the message you are responding to is located at the bottom of the frame, and you can use standard copy-and-paste (Shift+Insert and Ctrl+Insert) to copy pieces of the original message into your reply. Copying from the message before hitting the reply button doesn't generally work; this appears to be a Netscape thing.

Forum regulars value message threading highly, so use the Reply button to continue in the same thread, but change the topic if you're going off on a broad tangent. Although replies can only be addressed to one person, you can address any number of people in the message (and it's easier to post one "thank you" message than two or ten).

Depending on the Forum, you may have the option of deleting messages sent to or from you (but no others). Deleting other people's messages is generally frowned upon (if you don't like what someone said to you, just ignore it), and deleting your own should generally be done sparingly and as soon as possible, such as when you accidentally post an incomplete or a duplicate message. 🖰

Wizard Of PPWizard

Introduction to PPWizard

by Dennis Bareis

If you have a Web site, you probably already know that creating it is the easy part. Maintaining your site, and keeping it up to date, is where most of the work actually is.

Even before I started my Web site, I knew I would need a preprocessor to help me keep the site updated. I didn't find anything I liked, so I decided to write my own. The result is PPWizard, and in this article I'll show you what it can accomplish.

What's a preprocessor?

My site has over 600 pages. When I started development, I wanted to establish common definitions once (such as email and Web addresses) and reuse them wherever they were required. I also wanted to ensure a common look and feel for the site, which could be easily modified as I gained Web development experience.

All my download date, time, or file size information is automatically determined at the same time the file's existence is validated. If something needs changing, only one place in my code requires editing. As much as possible it is self validating (that is, it ensures its own correctness). That's something the preprocessor provides.

What is a preprocessor? A preprocessor reads in one or more input files. Following rules—both yours and its own—the preprocessor generates a new file as output. Typically, the input (source) file contains both literal text characters as well as preprocessor directives.

Basically, the whole point of a preprocessor is do something once and reuse the results. This simplifies and speeds up initial development as well as maintenance. Because you save time on routine things, you have more time to do the actual design or create other improvements.

For example: Because my whole site uses the same definitions, the chances of errors occurring are reduced. If I do make a mistake, all occurrences are incorrect (thereby simplifying testing). Of course, page headers, footers, and navigation bars are additional examples wherein reuse is generally required. (I can change these in seconds.)

Introducing PPWizard

Many preprocessors are available to aid reuse. In my opinion, most are quite hard to use, and none have the power of PPWizard.

Describing PPWizard is no simple task; it has about 40 commands just for basic functionality. Don't worry! A handful of these commands would probably suit most requirements. One of PPWizard's advantages is that you can actually extend what it can do by coding in PPWizard's own language, REXX or, typically, both.

While PPWizard can process any type of text file, it is mostly used for Web or REXX development. It may interest you to know that PPWizard is a pure REXX program that is itself built using PPWizard!

PPWizard is very configurable and has many options. If you do not like its defaults, you can use the #option command to set your own.

If you have never used a preprocessor before, you may be amazed at how much time you can save, and how much drudge work can be automated. Anything you do over and over again is a candidate for automation.

As a simple example, we may want to place a compile date in an HTML page footer. I could do this with:

```
<br>
<center>
Last updated <?=date()>.
</center>
```

The above shows one way that REXX can be embedded into your HTML pages, to produce useful output.

Simple example

You only need to know two main commands to get going with PPWizard. Anyone familiar with C language already knows these. The "#include" command lets you include external files, and the "#define" command defines a reusable component (which I call macros).

Let's define my email address. I may refer to this definition later on in any of my pages:

```
#define MyEmail dbareis@labyrinth.net.au
```

The above code creates a macro called "MyEmail" whose contents is the actual email address. PPWizard uses a HTML-like replacement syntax (by default, that is—PPWizard has many options), so to use MyEmail I might say:

```
<p>Hi, I am always interested in
<A HREF="mailto:<$MyEmail>">feedback</A> so please let
me know of any suggestions.
```

As you can see, we used <$MyEmail> to substitute the macro's value. Macros can include other macros, PPWizard commands, execute REXX code, take parameters, and conditionally generate output. The macro is, however, a good starting point, as it demonstrates the basics.

Write once, reuse everywhere

I have not yet said anything about where macros are defined. It would make no sense to define them in every HTML page!

Generally, you create one or more "common" header files. A "header file" is not intended to be a standalone HTML page, but is typically "included" by other files using

the "#include" command. For example, the start of all your pages might have the command:

```
#include "common.ih"
```

The above command includes the contents of the header file (`common.ih`) which contains the `#define` commands and any other "common" code. The `#include` command causes the entire contents of the included file to be processed exactly as if those contents had appeared in place of the `#include` command.

For larger reusable components, such as a footer, some people define macros (my preference) while others simply "#include" a header file such as "footer.ih." If you have a lot of pages, all sharing common aspects, then PPWizard also allows you to set up templates.

I use the extension ".ih" for header files and ".it" for the HTML source code. You can use whatever extensions you wish. Assuming that the page we created above was called "OurPage.it" we could compile it using this command:

```
PPWizard OurPage.it
```

That would generate "OurPage.htm" in the current directory. There are many options. Here's one scenario. To compile all pages in the current directory and create the HTML pages in the "out" directory with the extension ".html" and only rebuild HTML pages that needed rebuilding, then I could use (all on one line):

```
PPWizard *.it /output:out\*.html
/DependsOn:out\*.dep
```

More information

That's not all PPWizard can do. To show what it's capable of, here are some of the PPWizard "header files" available for download. (Look at www.labyrinth.net.au /~dbareis/links.htm.) These can be used by anyone, without needing to know how they work:

- I have a JavaScript password protection schemes for HTML and JavaScript. Not only does my scheme encrypt the page (as opposed to simple hiding) but it is very simple to use. If you manually edit HTML code to use in "document.write()" commands, then a similar technique can automate this. (Check out PPWizard's #transform command.)
- One header file automatically generates thumbnail files, while maintaining graphic proportions. It generates the HTML to tie the thumbnail to the image. This simple one step process lets you choose the exact look and feel.
- Another header file simplifies the inclusion of sample code (in "<PRE>" tags). It does all the work in converting "<", "&", and other dangerous characters. It can automatically create hypertext links where text might point to a documentation page. I used this technique in all the samples in the PPWizard documentation.

PPWizard's documentation is available online at www.labyrinth.net.au/~dbareis /ppwizard.htm. While there, you can also find more examples, plus links to some sites that use PPWizard. 🌏

Dennis Bareis has used and programmed OS/2 on and off since version 1.0, both at home and at work. He is a systems architect at the ANZ Banking Group in Melbourne, Australia where he designed, wrote, and helps support most of the current OS/2 back office environment (about 900 sites, 6000 workstations).

Dennis splits his spare time between working on PPWizard and his other free downloads, and spending time with his family. Any other time goes into improving his Web site (www.labyrinth.net.au /~dbarei) and/or teaching himself new techniques. He can be reached at dbareis@labyrinth.net.au.

Joining the discussion

The Phoenix OS/2 Society runs a private unmoderated email discussion list. In the 20 to 40 messages posted daily, OS/2 users discuss the best brands to buy, help one another debug a technical problem, and occasionally discuss the computing community of which OS/2 is a part.

To join the list, see the instructions at www.possi.org /lists.html.

While there's no requirement that participants be a member of the Society, it's generally expected that the people who use the service will support it financially. 🌏

Coming events

A list of events scheduled by the Phoenix OS/2 Society and other OS/2 user groups.

February 2001

5 Magazine submission deadline for February/March issue. Articles should be sent to editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 480-585-5852.

6 net.sig (Internet SIG) and HOW GIG. Meeting begins 7:00pm. Coordinator Sam MacDonald. Location: Offices of GD Barrie, 6860 W Peoria Ave, Peoria.

13 General meeting. Possible new meeting location. Please check online calendar!

24 Board meeting. Board meetings are held by telephone with the schedule changing monthly. Please contact a board member for the current schedule.

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

March 2001

6 net.sig (Internet SIG) and HOW GIG. Meeting begins 7:00pm. Coordinator Sam MacDonald. Location: Offices of GD Barrie, 6860 W Peoria Ave, Peoria.

13 General meeting. Possible new meeting location. Please check online calendar!

24 Board meeting. Board meetings are held by telephone with the schedule changing monthly. Please contact a board member for the current schedule.

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2001

3 net.sig (Internet SIG) and HOW GIG. Meeting begins 7:00pm. Coordinator Sam MacDonald. Location: Offices of GD Barrie, 6860 W Peoria Ave, Peoria.

5 Magazine submission deadline for April/May issue. Articles should be sent to editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 480-585-5852.

10 General meeting. Possible new meeting location. Please check online calendar!

28 Board meeting.

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2001

1 net.sig (Internet SIG) and HOW GIG. Meeting begins 7:00pm. Coordinator Sam MacDonald. Location: Offices of GD Barrie, 6860 W Peoria Ave, Peoria.

5 Magazine submission deadline for June issue. Articles should be sent to editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 480-585-5852.

8 General meeting.

30 Board meeting.

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	24	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June 2001

5 net.sig (Internet SIG) and HOW GIG. Meeting begins 7:00pm. Coordinator Sam MacDonald. Location: Offices of GD Barrie, 6860 W Peoria Ave, Peoria.

5 Magazine submission deadline for July/August issue. Articles should be sent to editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 480-585-5852.

12 General meeting.

23 Board meeting.

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2001

3 net.sig (Internet SIG) and HOW GIG. Meeting begins 7:00pm. Coordinator Sam MacDonald. Location: Offices of GD Barrie, 6860 W Peoria Ave, Peoria.

12 General meeting.

23 Board meeting.

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August 2001

5 Magazine submission deadline for December/January issue. Articles should be sent to editor@possi.org. For other arrangements, call 480-585-5852.

7 net.sig (Internet SIG) and HOW GIG. Meeting begins 7:00pm. Coordinator Sam MacDonald. Location: Offices of GD Barrie, 6860 W Peoria Ave, Peoria.

14 General meeting.

27 Board meeting.

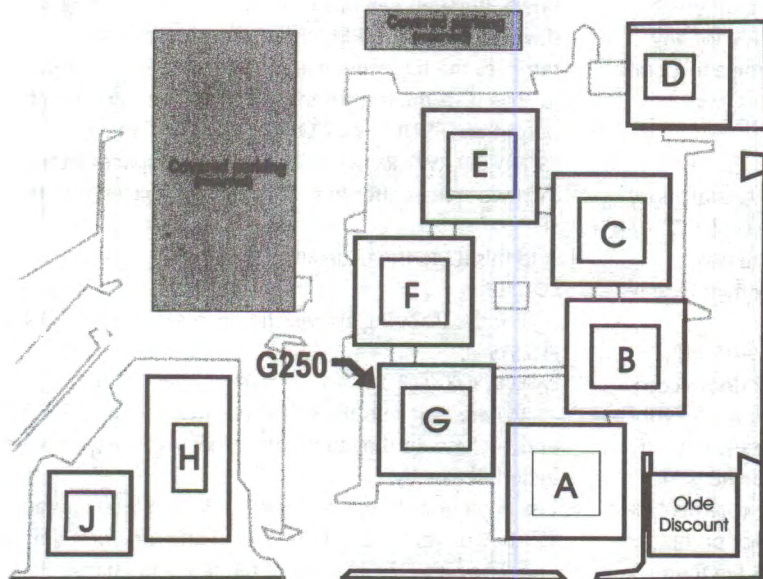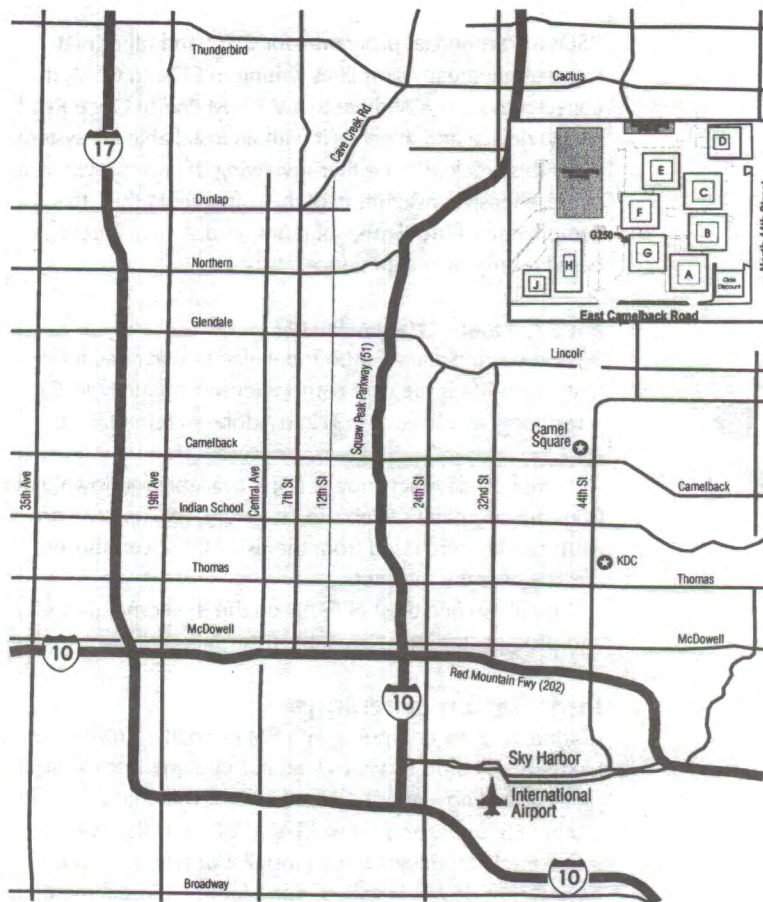| August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Meeting locations

Directions to meeting locations.

General meetings are held at the Camel Square office complex, Room G250, 44th Street and Camelback (northwest corner), Phoenix.

From the Red Mountain Freeway (202), exit at 44th Street and go north $3^1/_2$ miles. From the Squaw Peak (51), exit at Colter (southbound) or Highland (northbound); follow signs to Camelback Rd and go east $3^1/_2$ miles.

The "How OS/2 Works General Interest Group" and the Internet SIG (net.sig) meet at Knowledge Development Center, 2999 N 44th St, Suite 400. That's just north of Thomas, in the building with the green dome. Plenty of free parking is available in the garage behind the building. ☙

If the mailing label on the back cover says "sample" then this may be the only copy of extended attributes that you will ever receive. If you want to keep getting the magazine (and receive all the other benefits of membership), you must join! A 12 month membership in the USA is only $30. (See the form for membership pricing in other areas.) Tear out the application, fill it in, and mail it with your membership fee today!

A map of Camel Square, the new location for the Society's monthly general meeting. We will be meeting in room G250. You may park anywhere except in the reserved (covered) parking spaces.

East Camelback Road

Some RSJ Tips

by Joe Hansen

RSJ is a commercial program—for OS/2 and other platforms—that greatly simplifies writing to CDs. In OS/2, it converts the CD-RW drive to a WORM (Write Once Read Many) device and attaches it with an installable file system.

In this article, I'm neither reviewing RSJ nor providing a comprehensive description of the software. Rather, this is a compilation of problems, solutions, and enhancements, based on my own experience.

First, read the manual

A good starting place for both detailed and general information on RSJ is the very comprehensive manual. It's 77 pages long, available as a 372kb Adobe Acrobat file at: www2.rsj.de/pub/cdwos2/doc/cdwos2usd.pdf.

A free 30-day trial copy of RSJ is available for download from the company's Web site, at www.rsj.de, and the program can be purchased from the usual OS/2 vendors or directly over the Internet.

You'll also find a list of FAQs on the the company's site, and prompt support is available from support@rsj.de.

Installation warnings

I ordered a new computer with RSJ preloaded from Indelible Blue, so I didn't have to load it. But there is one serious pitfall that I know about. RSJ works best with Dani's drivers (DANIS506.ADD and DANIATAPI.FLT), and RSJ offers to install the Dani drivers during installation. If you already have Dani's drivers installed, don't let RSJ reinstall them, because it can place incompatible versions in a different directory. And, to avoid disaster, don't install RSJ (or any other complicated new software) without having a full, current, and dependable backup.

Both CD and CD-RW

Many RSJ users complained that, with a normal installation, the CD-RW drive is not available for use as a regular CD-R drive, unless you "attach" it with RSJ. There is a way around this limitation, using Daniela Engert's driver DANI-ATAPI.FLT.

In the latest driver versions (mine is dated 9-05-00), Dani provided a switch, /RSJ, that allows back door access for Atapi CD-RW drives. Add this to the proper line in your CONFIG.SYS, and you'll have regular read-access to your CD drive, whether or not it has been attached with RSJ.

My CR-RW drive is on the secondary EIDE channel (primary=0, secondary=1) and it's the slave device on that channel (master=0, slave=1). My CONFIG.SYS file therefore contains the line:

```
BASEDEV=DANIATAP.FLT /A:1 /U:1 /RSJ
```
The line:
```
BASEDEV=RSJIDECD.FLT
```
Is REMed out, since Dani's driver supersedes that RSJ driver. Your A: and U: parameters will be different from mine, if your CD-RW device is on the primary EIDE channel and/or is the master device on its channel.

With the /RSJ switch in place, my CD-RW drive shows up in the Drives folder as a regular CD-R drive assigned letter L:. If I attach it with RSJ, it also appears as a CD-RW drive assigned letter Z:. (The latter letter is selectable within RSJ during installation and changeable later.)

Drive? what drive?

At first, I could read and write data files with RSJ. But, when I tried to copy a music track from a CD, I got an error message. After sending the results of the error log to RSJ's support team, they determined that the program was not properly recognizing my CD-RW drive.

RSJ has a file of CD-RW drives it knows about, called CDDRV.INF. If your CD-RW drive isn't listed there, RSJ is supposed to autodetect it and work anyway. But in my case, it improperly autodetected my Sony CRX145E Atapi drive as a SCSI device.

The fix that worked for me, provided by Markus Mueller at RSJ, is as follows:

- Get the exact ID of the CD-RW.

   The ID is displayed briefly when OS/2 boots—so briefly that you will probably have trouble writing it down. In this case, RSJ has a 26kb program that retrieves the ID string when run in an OS/2 window.

   The ID is the fourth string, included in quotes, of the output of TESTID; my CD-RW drive had an ID of "SONY CD-RW CRX145E." There are four spaces after the "Y", two spaces after the "W" and two spaces after the "E."

- Add this ID to the CONFIG.SYS line BASEDEV=LOCK-CDR.FLT.

   For the ID string above, the necessary line in CONFIG.SYS is:
```
BASEDEV=LOCKCDR.FLT -n -i:"SONY CD-RW CRX145E "
```
   Where "-n" tells the driver not to try to autodetect, and "-i:" means that an ID string follows. The spaces are included exactly.

- Use any editor to open CDDRV.INF and look for your CD-RW drive. If it's not there, find an entry for a similar one, copy it to the bottom of the file, and change the fourth field to exactly match the full ID string of your

device.

After rebooting, RSJ was able to write music tracks as well as data.

Not always-on

If you're like me, you don't burn CDs all the time, so you don't need to run RSJ in every session. But, because RSJ starts up an installable file system and changes the CD-RW device to a WORM (Write Once Read Many) drive, it slows down the boot process.

My solution is to use multiple CONFIG.SYS files. I decided to make my default not to run RSJ, and have an alternate configuration to use when I did want it. Here's how I accomplished this.

- I made a copy of my existing CONFIG.SYS

  That's the one that includes entries for RSJ. I called the copy `CONFIG.A`.

- I edited my regular CONFIG.SYS file in the root directory of the boot drive, REMing out the RSJ lines and removing the /RSJ switch from `DANIATAPI.FLT`.

- In your `\os2\boot` directory, you'll find a file named `ALTF1BOT.SCR`. Edit this file, adding the following line:

  `" A) CONFIG.SYS to start RSJ"`

  `ALTF1BOT.SCR` might be marked read only, in which case you'll first have to use `ATTRIB -R ALTF1BOT.SCR`.

  Note that the "A" must be in the fourth column, following three spaces. For an example of what this entry should be, look in the file `ALTF1MID.SCR` in the same folder. All the text after the "A" can be anything you want, only the "A", corresponding to the one-letter extension of your alternate CONFIG file, is important.

- I opened the desktop settings notebook, went to the archive page, and checked the box to "Display recovery choices at each restart."

I also set the time before the default CONFIG.SYS is selected to three seconds, but you can pick any value you wish.

This procedure will let you have up to 26 alternate versions of CONFIG.SYS by using additional one-letter extensions: CONFIG.B, etc. In every case, the default is the original CONFIG.SYS in the root directory of the boot drive.

The part of RSJ that isn't disabled by this alternate CONFIG.SYS is its error log, which runs in the background all the time. To keep this from starting, I went into OS/2's startup folder and removed the "Start Error Log" object. I put it on the desktop where I can easily start it manually when needed. RSJ runs fine without it, as long as there are no errors.

An important caveat about using multiple configuration files is that software installation programs that modify CONFIG.SYS don't know about your alternate files. So you have to make sure to change these manually. ☺

Joe Hansen is president of Lexington Strategic Associates, a management consulting firm in Lexington MA. After receiving a graduate degree from Harvard in 1958, he began his computing career as a programmer on an IBM CPC (Card Programmed Computer), a vacuum tube and relay machine with two card readers, a card punch, a printer and zero memory (it did have some 16 bit registers). His company uses OS/2 exclusively, he writes, "because we'd rather spend our time on client projects than on trying to get the computers working."

Burning CDs Under OS/2 with CDRecord/2

by Bob Stephan

The most surprising free software that I've ever encountered is an OS/2 program that burns (or creates) CD-ROMs, called CDRecord/2. After I discovered how good it is, I kicked myself for not trying CDRecord/2 much earlier.

I was interested in burning my own CDs for a long time, but several obstacles seemed to be in the way—particularly under OS/2. My hesitation hinged on the high cost of CD-RW drives, the high cost of commercial burning OS/2 software, and complicated and confusing installation and operating procedures.

I put off purchasing the hardware and software until I noticed a special offer from Indelible Blue. They had a combination package with a Yamaha CRW6416sz CD-RW drive and the RSJ CD burning software. It was an offer I couldn't refuse. It seemed as though this system would fit in well with my IBM Thinkpad 770 in a SelectaDock docking station. The docking station has a built in Adaptec SCSI controller, which I'd been using successfully with externally attached Jaz and Bernoulli drives. The system was working well and was quite standard, so I expected no difficulties. Boy, was I wrong.

The curse of RSJ

Apparently, I am one of the few people who has been unable to get RSJ to work reliably. I won't go into the long story that goes with this, but simply say that this provided the impetus I needed to bite a bullet and find out about CDRecord/2.

It wasn't all that difficult to install CDRecord/2. You do need to take it one step at a time, as described in the companion article by Ira Saxe.

The next hurdle was figuring out the parameters I needed to operate the installed software. The documentation lists so many parameters, most of which I didn't have the technical knowledge to understand, that it initially seemed hopeless. But I bit yet another bullet and started digging. It wasn't as difficult as it first appeared—which seems to be the general pattern with the CDRecord/2 stuff.

Full technical documentation for all the parameters is included in Postscript files. This requires that you install a reader such as ghostview or ghostscript, free Postscript renderer that view and print those files. This can be very confusing, especially to someone like me, who lacks the technical knowhow to understand such detailed documentation.

I experimented with several options, and without too much trouble, found a combination that worked. I was working at the OS/2 command prompt, so I quickly put

what I had learned into command (.CMD) files before I had a "senior moment" and forgot what I'd done.

Step by step

The first step in using CDRecord/2 is to create an image file, which will later be written to a CD. The program to do this is MKISOFS.EXE, which is quite easy to use. It takes directory names as arguments and creates an output file of the structure and files in those directories. My command file (which I called MAKEFILE.CMD) consists of the following lines:

```
if .%1 == . goto help
mkisofs -v -o mkisofs.out %1 %2 %3
goto exit
:help
echo Directory parameter(s) required
:exit
```

The operative expression is in the second line where
- mkisofs is the command to run MKISOFS.EXE
- -v specifies verbose mode
- -o mkisofs.out specifies the arbitrary output file name
- %1 %2 %3 are the replaceable parameters for up to three directory names.

Create this file in the directory where you installed CDRecord/2. The file is run at an OS/2 command prompt with a command such as
```
MAKEFILE dir1 dir2 dir3
```
substituting the directories you want to be copied to the CD for "dir1 dir2 dir3." This produces a file named MKISOFS.OUT which can then be copied to a CD in the next step.

I created another command file to burn the output file to the CD, called MAKECD.CMD.
```
if .%1 == . goto help
cdrecord -v dev=5,0 speed=4 %1
goto exit
:help
echo Command line filename required; e.g. makecd
mkisofs.out
:exit
```
Again, the key is in line 2 where
- cdrecord runs CDRECORD.EXE
- -v specifies verbose mode
- dev=5,0 is my SCSI device number for the drive
- speed=4 is the record speed for my CD-RW
- %1 is the replaceable parameter which will take the file name

You specify your own SCSI device number and speed depending on your hardware, but the idea should be clear.

Naturally, these are simply minimal examples for testing purposes. They can be substantially enhanced with additional parameters for production burning. For example, I've since added the "-iso-level 3 -relaxed-filenames" parameters to MAKEFILE.CMD along with additional replaceable parameters and "-eject fs=8m" to MAKECD.CMD. I have also made separate command files to create CD-Rs and CD-RWs. But first things first—and the first thing is to assure yourself that it is at least working minimally by using the above commands.

With these command files, I could easily create perfect CD-R and CD-RW discs using CDRecord/2. Consequently, what was I to believe but that the OS/2 SCSI drivers work fine, my hardware is OK—but for some reason RSJ is incompatible with my system?

But now I seldom use CDRecord/2 from a command prompt, since I have installed one of the GUIs available. Audio-CD-Creator is available from the author of CDRecord/2. Although it is not immediately apparent from the name, this application also has a Data-CD-Creator module which I've been using very successfully as a backup program, to create data CDs for archival purposes, and to exchange files with others.

Audio-CD-Creator's installation created a desktop folder called CD-Writing Utilities, containing objects named CDR Tools, Docs, Create Audio-CD, Create Data-CD, CD-Creator Settings and CD Writing Tutorial. The tutorial's documentation is quite good, and provides clear step-by-step instructions for the components of the CDRecord/2 package. I think it would be easier to start by installing Audio-CD-Creator before any of the CDRecord/2 components—just to get access to this Tutorial.

For example...

To give you a brief idea of the procedure, here's one straightforward method to create a data CD.

- Open the CD-writing folder and a file system drive folder.
- Drag the Create Data-CD template and drop it in your file system. A new Data-CD-Creator folder is created. Open this new folder.
- Open the settings notebook. Select single session and data.
- On the file name page, select how file names are written on the CD.
- Fill in the information about the CD on the next page of the notebook. Close the notebook.
- Put the files and folders you want to burn into the folder. You may use shadows; Data-CD-Creator follows them and uses the shadowed file system objects.
- Click "Create image only" to create the image file.
- After successful creation of the image, click on "Write only" to write the image to the CD. If you are truly ready for a write uncheck the "Test only" box.
- You're done. You can watch the window that comes up to follow the progress of the write.

One of the ways I use this GUI front-end is to place Create Data-CD objects at various locations in my file system. I fill these objects with shadows of the directories and files that I want to place on various CDs. To create an archive of the included directories and files, all I have to do is open the Create Data-CD object (which I've given a meaningful name), click on Create Image, then (when that's successful) click on Write.

Each creator object can have its own properties such as the CD description including CD name and author. All that is necessary each time is to check whether you want to add or delete any of the objects to be burned before starting the procedure.

I have discussed one enhancement with the author, Chris Wohlgemuth. He was very receptive to the idea of being able to create incremental or differential backups, by using the file archive bit to indicate which files to copy to the CD. This would greatly improve the capability of using CD-RWs as a backup medium.

Another GUI front end available is the CDR/RW Wizard, which you can find at www.quasarbbs.com/rocco. Scroll down on the Web site page for information on the Wizard and be sure to click on the PRE-REQUISITE link. I have not yet used the Wizard, primarily because it requires WarpIn for installation and I have not yet installed WarpIn. I'll get around to it one of these days.

In view of my problems with RSJ, CDRecord/2 has been a life saver giving me the only method I have of creating CDs from OS/2. And the price is right!

Bob "I don't do Windows" Stephan is an OS/2 enthusiast with over 35 years of experience using and programming computers. He loves programming in APL. Professionally, Bob is a retired Naval Aviator. He's also worked for The Boeing Corporation, as well as doing computer consulting both independently and with a company. Reach him by email at bstephan@redshift.com or Bob-Stephan@compuserve.com, or on the Web at www.redshift.com/~bstephan.

Installing CDRecord/2 (CD-RW) under OS/2

by Ira N. Saxe

Recording on compact disk is valuable for re-writable back-ups and for data archiving, with the obvious space and speed advantages. If Bob Stephan's article, "Burning CDs Under OS/2" has convinced you to try out the free CDRecord/2, this article is for you. I'll describe some problems you may encounter and detailed installation steps to aid you and to show you what to expect.

CDRecord/2's author, Chris Wohlgemuth, supplied me with much of this CDRecord/2 information. He was kind enough to review my text, and I've incorporated his suggestions.

My goal was to install a CD-RW under OS/2 on my Aptiva SE7, which already had an internal IDE CD-ROM, Hitachi DVD-ROM GD-2500. My system also includes an SCSI color scanner, Epson Perfection 636.

Based on POSSI email list discussions, I bought a Plextor External SCSI CD-RW PX-W12432Te. I connected it on the end of the SCSI chain and reset the color scanner's termination setting to OFF. Upon re-booting, OS/2 recognized both devices drives, my older IDE as the H: and the SCSI as the I: drives.

In the POSSI discussion, I had recommendations for both RSJ and for CDRecord/2. While I downloaded the RSJ demo via BMT Micro, I decided not to install it.

Getting started

First, get familiar with the program and its capabilities, Start with www.fokus.gmd.de/nthp/employees/schill-ing/cdrecord.html and then CDRecord/2's home page, at www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Sector/5785.

CDRecord/2 hasn't been tested on FAT drives, although the programs can write FAT16 files to compact disks. Use a drive that supports long file names. But make your directory names no longer than eight characters, to avoid potential problems when you back up directories from a FAT16 partition.

CDRecord isn't especially easy to install. All the installation information is available, but it's not simple to find and execute.

I downloaded and expanded CDRecord/2 from Hobbes, which produced 89 files, including 35 read-me files. It seems to be intended for developers. But, I did not learn how to install and use it. Thus, I deleted them. Next, I downloaded and installed CDRecord/2 from a more user friendly source. Following are the elements needed.

As the programs instructions say, the file structure is your choice and need not be defined by the path statements of the config.sys file. I created the following file structure for the purpose of relating CDRecord/2 files. I created C:\CD_RW with subdirectories ASPIROUT, AUDCREAT, CDRDAO2, CDRECORD and GRABBER. Lower level subdirectories are created by the unzip processes. This structure is assumed to simplify installation descriptions.

Installation steps

Download all ZIP files into C:\CD_RW, and define the base directory for each to your unzip utility. If you use PKUNZIP2, move the zip file to its base directory for unzipping, and unzip using the ZIP file's included directory structure (such as pkunzip2 -d newfile.zip).

From www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Sector/5785/cdrecord/cdrecordmain.html, click Download to acquire CDRecord/2 V1.9a02. Its unzipped files in the CDRECORD subdirectory include cdrecord.exe and mkisofs.exe.

(Note: Mkisofs from cdrecord V1.10aXX doesn't work out of the box with this program's Creator classes because of a change in the options handling.)

If you don't have EMX-runtime libraries 0.9d fix 3, you'll need to get and install them, including setting up paths and LIBPATHs and so on. To check your EMX version, enter EMXREV at the C:\EMX prompt.
ftp://ftp.leo.org/pub/comp/os/os2/leo/gnu/emx+gcc/emxrt.zip

You'll also need the ASPI-Router, which is available from ftp://ftp.leo.org/pub/comp/os/os2/leo/drivers/misc/aspir101.zip. You'll unzip its file in your subdirectory ASPIROUT, including aspirout.sys.

Although the Web site lets you download Dani's drivers, this isn't the best place to find the latest version. Hold off for a few more paragraphs.

If you want to create bootable CDs, make sure you look at the instructions available at ftp://ftp.leo.org/pub/comp/os/os2/leo/systools/cdboot.zip, called "Boot-CD HowTo." I didn't.

To raise the priority of the mkisofs process when piping to cdrecord, download this file, which is free:
ftp://ftp.leo.org/pub/comp/os/os2/leo/systools/spe.zip

Unzip spe.zip into the \CD_RW\CDRECORD directory, where mkisofs.exe resides.

You only need spe if you create CD-Rs on the command line. The CD-Creator class adjusts the priority of mkisofs dynamically while writing.

Download Audio-CD-Creator, from this same Web page. Unzip it into the AUDCREAT subdirectory. Its subdi-

rectories include files cdrecord.exe, CDRTools.exe V1.03 and many other programs.

If you don't have Dani's drivers, download them from ftp://ftp.leo.org/pub/comp/os/os2/leo/drivers/dasd/danis506.zip or ftp://ftp.leo.org/pub/comp/os/os2/leo/drivers/dasd/daniatapi.zip. The latter was more recent than one I had from Hobbes and is needed if you have an ATAPI writer.

After unzipping them in CD_RW, you can move danis506.add and daniatapi.flt to C:\OS2\BOOT, so your config.sys need not define their location. Otherwise, you'll need to include their paths in the BASEDEV= statements, as illustrated in a later paragraph.

(After changing to the Dani drivers, my internal IDE CD-ROM changed from H: to I: and my SCSI connected CD-RW changed from I: to H: But, I've not found any problem that's caused by these changes.)

Chris Wohlgemuth says that you can use cdda2wav.exe for the GRABBER option. It comes with the cdrecord package and is much faster than Leech. It is in the CDRecord subdirectory.

An alternative is to use Leech 1.20 which is available on Hobbes (http://hobbes.nmsu.edu).

Make a backup copy of your config.sys. Then, revise your config.sys to include the following statements, that are without a leading REM. Also, add REM before each statement that is designated as incompatible with CDRecord/2.

```
REM BASEDEV=IBM1S506.ADD /A:0 /U:0 /LBA
/U:1 /ATAPI
REM — above is incompatible with
CDRecord/2 --
REM — and is replaced by the below
DANI...... --
[...]
REM BASEDEV=IBMATAPI.FLT (was not in my
config.sys)
REM above is incompatible with CDRecord/2
[...]
REM BASEDEV=IBMIDECD.FLT incompatible
```

```
with CDRecord/2
REM — replaced by the below DANI....... --
```

The above is only necessary if you own an ATAPI writer. As far as I can see, there's no problem with using these drivers together with SCSI writers. Exchanging the drivers with the DANI drivers causes a mapping of the ATAPI devices to a "virtual" SCSI bus so CDRecord/2 can use them.

```
[...]
BASEDEV=OS2SCSI.DMD
BASEDEV=AIC7870.ADD /V (Adaptec SCSI driv-
er)
REM BASEDEV=AIC78U2.ADD /V (Adaptec SCSI
driver)
REM BASEDEV=AHA2920.ADD /V (Adaptec SCSI
driver)
BASEDEV=OS2ASPI.DMD /ALL (/ALL is required
by CDRecord/2)
REM — CD2Record/2 —
BASEDEV=DANIATAPI.FLT
BASEDEV=DANIS506.ADD
DEVICE=C:\CD_RW\ASPIROUT\ASPIROUT.SYS
[...]
```

Installation. Finally.

From the C:\CD_RW\AUDCREAT directory enter INSTALL to install Audio-CD-Creator. The INSTALL.CMD creates a CD-Utilities folder, containing icons for Tools, Documents, Templates, CD-Creator Settings and a CD Writing tutorial.

Next, select CD-Creator Settings. From each tab, use the Browse feature to designate your CD-RW burner (use its Help for the choices), your user name and and user host (mine are isaxe and attglobal.net from isaxe@attglobal.net), and the CDRecord/2 path. You'll also specify the paths for Cdrdao-Record, the Grabber drive (e.g., H:), cdda2wav.exe, the Mp3 decoding path, and Mkisofs.

Select CDR-Tools, then Settings, and use the Browse feature to designate the path of cdrecord.exe. Also, enter the CDRecord/2 options as dev=0,4,4. Replace 0,4 with the path to your CD-RW as displayed at boot,

and the last 4 with the re-writable speed of that device.

The Tutorial provides some of the previously listed data and instructions for using Audio_CD-Creator to record images and/or data on a CD-RW or CD-R compact disk. Use this Tutorial to learn how to check the size of a tentative file or directory to be written to CD, to learn how to create a file and write that file to CD.

One caution: Move shadows, not originals. If you moved the original of a directory object to CDRecord, you could delete that directory when deleting the related CDCreator icon. Present versions of Audio/Data-CD-Creator have an Always Create Shadows switch on the General (CD Writer) settings page, which you can set as a default.

The write stuff

My initial trial operations were successful, including an erase with CDR-Tools, and a backup of two directories.

If this article makes your installation easier, then it has achieved its purpose. Happy burning! 🖊

Ira N. Saxe (isaxe@attglobal.net) has an EE from VMI, class of 1939. He was an officer in WW II, in the Signal Corps. Ira was also an IBM engineer from 1955 to 1990, starting in logical circuit design for Sage (vacuum tubes) air defense system, and ending with 30 years in space related system engineering and management from Mercury to the Space Shuttle. Presently, he's retired and programs as a hobby. Ira has used OS/2 since it was first available to IBM employees.

Installing a Non-Latin Font

by Jeffrey Race <jrace@attglobal.net>

Many of us have occasion to use a non-Latin font for word processing and Web browsing. But the process isn't immediately obvious.

The following steps document my experience in installing Thai in Windows 3.1 and in Navigator 2.02 for OS/2. (Later versions should install similarly *mutatis mutandis*.) For Thai users this will work "out of the box," but the procedure should work equally well for other non-Latin fonts.

I write this in the hope others will submit their experiences and in particular the sources for fonts, keyboard drivers and keyboard templates for other languages.

Here's the steps to install the Thai keyboard driver and fonts in Windows.

- Create the directory (\THAIFONTS).
- Obtain the Thai fonts from http://thaigate.nacsis .ac.jp and install them in the \THAIFONTS directory.

Several TrueType and Type 1 fonts are available, which may reward experimentation in your own application. However, the procedure described below (under Installing Thai fonts in Navigator) will work immediately to get you started.

- Obtain the Thai keyboard driver and DLL from the same site. Install these in any convenient directory, such as \WINDOWS\THAIKBD.
- Install THAIKBD.EXE as an executable. It comes with its own icon.
- Obtain Thai keyboard press-on labels from a stationer, or create your own, using the keyboard layout appearing at http://thaigate.nacsis.ac.jp/refer /thaiio.html.

Using Thai

Each time you want to use Thai, click the icon to run THAI-KBD.EXE before running your Windows program, or just use File, Run, (pathname)\thaikbd. Then, load your program and select the Thai font using whatever method that program uses. For example, in Windows Write, select Font.

The installed Thai fonts will now appear in the list of available fonts. Switch between English and Thai on screen with Alt-LShift and Alt-RShift. You may have to select 16 point or larger for adequate visibility.
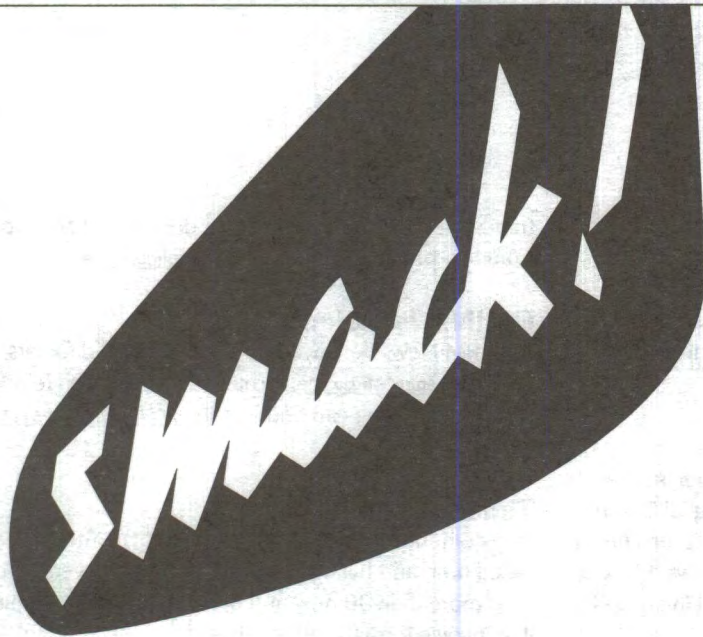
Installing Thai fonts in Navigator

Here's how to make the Thai fonts work in Netscape Navigator 2.02 for OS/2.

- Create a directory, \THAIFONTS.
- From http://thaigate.nacsis.ac.jp/refer/windows /thai-ns.html download w95t-ttf.exe. Execute this program to extract the fonts. This program runs on DOS and OS/2 as well as in Windows. The parent file, w95t-ttf.exe, may be now be deleted if desired. The following fonts will appear upon extraction:
  DBTT.TTF 40764 10-02-928:42a
  DBTTB.TTF 40144 10-02-928:57a
  DBTTF.TTF 40772 1-04-963:06p
  DBTTFB.TTF 40156 1-04-963:08p
- Open the OS/2 System folder, then System Setup. Click on the Font Palette icon.
- Click on Edit Font, then click on Add. Input the correct path (such as d:\THAIFONTS).
- Open Navigator. Select Options, then General Preferences, then Fonts. In the dialog window, select User Define. For Proportional Font, select DB Thai Text; for the Fixed Font, select FixedDB Thai Text.

When viewing an HTML page, you may move between Western (Latin 1) (default Times Roman) and User Define (now Thai) according to the base content of the page. Do so by clicking on Options, select Document Encoding, and then either of the two aforementioned choices for maximum legibility.

However, note that the Latin glyphs in the Thai font set are greatly inferior to Navigator's default Latin 1 fonts. You'll usually want to switch back to the default font set when viewing Latin-character pages. ◉

New and improved

compiled by Esther Schindler

I'm not quite sure what happened in the last two months, but I'm happy about it. To fit into this month's column of new and updated applications, I had to edit ruthlessly. Whether small "do one thing well" utilities or full-scale applications, there's a whole new set of software for OS/2 users to explore.

Guiffy

Guiffy is a visual source file compare/merge tool implemented entirely in Java with Sun's latest Swing GUI components. Because Guiffy is a Java application, it runs on all Java enabled platforms including OS/2, Windows, MacOS, Unix, and Linux. (If you're familiar with Unix/Linux, Guiffy is similar to the diff utility.)

You can use Guiffy to compare and merge text files of any sort. Guiffy also compares folders and file trees. Plus, a command line interface can be used in scripts and to integrate with CM/SCM systems.

A single user license costs $49. A 30-day evaluation version is available at www.guiffy.com.

ModLogAn

ModLogAn 0.5.6 is a Web log file analyzer, derived from webalizer, that the developers claim combines speed with flexibility. It parses Web server log files (common/combined) and provides statistics that include—beyond the expected set—pages that were indexed by a robot, bookmarked pages, and cache hit ratio. ModLogAn reads log files generated by Apache and friends, Microsoft IIS 5.0, Wu-FTP/ProFTP, Squid, and RealServer. Statistics for non-Web logfiles (hicom116, elmeg, isdnlog) can also be created. Find more information at http://teamos2.ru.

The Wall 3.40

Pretty Pop Software released The Wall 3.40, a $5 shareware utility that changes background images and colors at user-set intervals. You can get a copy from www.prettypop .net/software/index.html.

PM-Euro

Carsten Mueller (cm@warphouse.de) released PM-Euro 1.6, a free currency calculator. The new version automatically loads the currency exchange rates for US, Canadian, and Australian dollars, UK pounds, Japanese yen and Swiss francs over the Internet. You can download PM-Euro 1.6 from Warphouse Software, www.warphouse.de.

PMINews Reindexer

After PMINews destroyed his Sent and Saved folders, Peter Engels (p.engels@gmx.de) wrote a small utility to reindex these folders. You can find it at http://home.pages.at /pengels.

Timesolv

Elite.com Inc (www.elite.com) updated its Timesolv Web-based time and billing application. The new version contains more than 30 new and enhanced features. It has flexible invoice formats, project-based permissions, enhanced reporting, and Web-based bill presentment.

Timesolv costs $9.95 per month per user, and is available via any Web browser. It can also be access over wireless Palm Web connections. Offline time entry is offered for Palm and Windows-based devices.

Analog 4.11

Russian Team OS/2 announced an OS/2 version of Analog 4.11, a freeware program to analyze log files from Web servers. This port's author is Dmitry Afanasiev (dima@elcom.spb.ru). Find it at http://os2.ru/projects /analog.

mnoGoSearch

mnoGoSearch (formerly UDMSearch) is a SQL based Web search engine ported from Unix. The new OS/2 version supports the open-source MySQL database.

You can see how it works, and get the code, from the OS/2-related world search engine at http://search.os2.ru. The author of mnoGoSearch/2 port is Platon Fomichev (Stauff). Find out more at http://os2.ru/projects /mnoGoSearch.

Seti@home 3.03

extended attributes described SETI@home a while back. Now version 3 of the client is available, including one for OS/2. The search for extraterrestial intelligence continues unabated on the OS/2 platform! Find the application at http://setiathome.berkeley.edu/unix.html. Have fun, and let your PC take advantage of some unused cycles!

SOX

SoX (Sound eXchange) translates sound samples between different file formats, and can even apply various sound

effects. SoX is intended as the Swiss Army knife of sound processing tools. It doesn't do any one thing extremely well, but sooner or later, say the folks who ported version 12.17 to OS/2, it comes in very handy.

This release understands many new file types, from Amiga 8svx files to NeXT .snd files to Turtle Beach SampleVision files. Sound effects include a band-reject filter, echo, and phaser effects.

Get it at http://teamos2.ru/files/sox1217.zip.

UpdCD

UpdCD is a utility to help you produce an up-to-date installation CD that integrates IBM FixPaks, updates and various third party components with the OS/2 installation CD-ROM.

UpdCD version 1.1 supports the TCP/IP 4.1 fixpak, Java 1.1.x fixpak, Open GL 1.1, USB drivers, WarpIn installer, File Commander/2, Netscape Plug-in Pak, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Bamba player, Norton Antivirus, Innotek Flash Plug-in and EMX run-time. Find out more at http://xenia.sote.hu/~kadzsol/rexx/sajat/updcd.htm.

Connect/2

Connect/2 is a Borland-style integrated environment. It includes a multi-window multifunctional text editor, hexadecimal editor, text viewer, and file manager. There's also a keyboard macro editor and player, programmer's calculator, and an ASCII table.

The Russian Team OS/2 ported Connect/2 7.6.7 (http://os2.ru/projects /connect), which was programmed by Alexander Trunoff.

Send an OS/2 postcard

Want to send an OS/2-related electronic postcard to your friends? With the help of Lukas Koutsky, there are now more than 20 e-cards with OS/2 topics! Visit www.os2.cz.

New IPSec and Pluto

F/X Communications's updated Pluto 1.7 IKE (Internet Key Exchange) server and the InJoy IPSec Plugin for the company's IPSec VPN solution for OS/2. OS/2 systems running an IPSec capable InJoy product can now securely inter-connect to other InJoy stations or third party IPSec compatible solutions.

New features in Pluto 1.70 include Windows 2000 IPSec interoperability, Cisco PIX and Cisco IOS VPN compatibility, and Nortel Extranet Switch 2.6 (or newer) interoperability.

New in IPSec 1.70 is an SHS tool for better monitoring of SA negotiations. Also, SAs using dynamic passwords and extended authentication will now cause InJoy to pop-up a password prompt. Stand alone IPSec clients with an external IP address can now use NAT to convert the external IP address to a static "inner" IP address (e.g. within the 192.168.x.x or 10.x.x.x segments).

Find out more about these products at www.fx.dk/ipsec.

Voldep

Timo Maier (tam@gmx.de) released VolDep 0.69 of VolDep, a freeware text-mode OS/2 stocks manager. Find it at http://home .sampo.de/homepages/thunder/bin /voldep.zip.

SolarPosition

Doug Rickman released SolarPosition 1.0, a REXX program that computes the sun's azimuth and elevation (with and without atmospheric refraction), sunrise, sunset, and the energy received by flat surface. You provide the latitude, longitude, air temperature, and other criteria.

You should be able to find the free file at http://hobbes.nmsu.edu/pub/os2/apps /science/astro/SolarPosition10.zip.

Program Commander/2

Roman Stangl (Roman_Stangl@at.ibm.com) released PC/2 (Program Commander/2) 2.20, a WPS enhancement. It includes a program launcher, virtual desktops, hotkey support, sliding focus, advanced marking, dynamic menu selection, environment spaces, Windows-key support, a Quick-Switch and SessionBar window, hardware panning support, title bar smart icons, lockup and password protection support, scheduler, WPS extraction, and a Spooler

Control Window (which enables spooling even when running PC/2 as a WPS replacement).

PC/2 is free. You can find the complete package, including source code, at www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Pi nes/7885—follow the PC/2 links.

SIO

Whatever happened to Ray Gwinn? Until a few years ago, Gwinn was well known as the author of SIO, a set of replacement communication drivers for OS/2. In an online interview (www.os2world.com /news_ww_show.shtml#975643546), Gwinn said he's finally working on a new version... and shortly thereafter, released a new version of his COM port driver available on his home page at www.gwinn.com.

CDBFlite

CDBFlite allows you to view, edit, and work with files in DBF format, from the command line. CDBFlite supports all existing field types and all memo-field types.

CDBFlite can be also be used on Web server. For example, the page at www.whitetown.com/cdbflite/download.html was made with CDBFlite.

The $15 utility is available for OS/2, Linux, Win32, and DOS protected mode. See www.whitetown.com/cdbflite.

Ceres Sound Studio

Ceres Sound Studio is a sound editing program for OS/2. The online documentation isn't clear, but at least the software appears to be free. Find it at http://hobbes.nmsu.edu /pub/os2/apps/mmedia/sound/editors /ceressoundstudio.zip.

PlayRec v0.14

Carsten Arnold's (C.Arnold@transnet.de) PlayRec 0.14 is a free command line player and recorder for very big .wav-format sound files The recording can be started to a adjustable time, and the duration or end time is adjustable. The program can do

streaming, such as directly to lame.

Find PlayRec at http://home.t-online.de /home/C.Arnold.

Impos/2 scanner drivers

In early December, Compart updated its OS/2 scanner drivers. To download the files (from www.compart.net), you must register, and cookies must be enabled in your browser.

The updated scanners supported is way too long to list, but the brands updated include Agfa, Epson, Escom, Hewlett-Packard, Fujitsu, Microtek, Mustek, Canon, Ricoh, IBM, Bell+Howell, and CTS.

Night Vision

Night Vision 2.4 is a planetarium program for OS/2. It displays the heavens from any location on earth. You can control which sky objects to display, which font to use, and the manipulation of various star parameters. Time may be set to run at multiple speeds, including backwards. Star charts may be printed.

Version 2.4 has a larger star database, different symbols for each type of deep sky object, includes the Milky Way, and supports color printing.

Night Vision's home page is at http://home.att.net/~bsimpson/nvsn.html. The shareware program costs $25.

Glimmer

Glimmer (previously called CodeCommander) is a programmer's editor for OS/2.

Glimmer supports multiple files, and tear-away windows. You can insert common text segments, such as ChangeLog entry, GPL, or the date and time. It's Gnome session management compliant, has Python scripting support, and bracket matching scriptable hooks. Glimmer's highlighting support works for Ada, Bash/Sh, C/C++, DTML, HTML, Java, Latex, GNU Make, Object Caml, Perl, PHP, PO (Language Translation), Python, Lisp (guile,

scheme, etc), SGML, SQL, Tcl/Tk, WML, XML, and Z80 Assembly.

The OS/2 version (apparently free) is at http://birdy.hpage.net. Because Glimmer is an Xfree86OS/2 app, you'll also need Xfree86OS/2 installed or another X-Server like HOBlink X11 (www.hob.de).

The project's home page, including source code, is at http://glimmer.source-forge.net.

Scigraphica/2

SciGraphica is a scientific application for data analysis and technical graphics. It pretends to be a clone of the popular commercial (and expensive) application "Microcal Origin." SciGraphica/2 has plotting features for 2D, 3D and polar charts. The aim is to obtain a fully-featured, cross-plattform, user-friendly, self-growing scientific application. It is free and open-source, released under the GPL license. Find it at http://scigraphica.sourceforge.net. The OS/2 version (ftp://merlin.itep.ru/incoming/Andy/s cigraphica-os2.zip) is an XFree86/2 port that requires Python to be installed.

CoolFM for OS/2

CoolFM/2 (by Eugene Gorbunoff) is an FM radio tuner control program for OS/2, claimed to be compatible with most popular PC FM tuner hardware.

CoolFM is shareware, and costs $17. Download it from http://os2.ru/projects/coolfm.

I-Collection

Filip Molcan (molcanf@seznam.cz) announced a collection of 800 high-resolution icons for your OS/2 desktop, available from www.os2.cz.

Citrix native ICA-Client

The beta release of the native ICA OS/2 Client for MetaFrame Servers is now available at www.citrix.com. It's also available from the OS/2 Shareware BBS (ICAOS2B1.ZIP), contact info below.
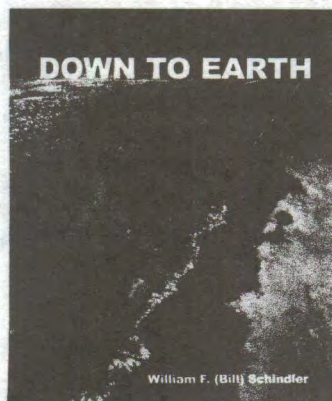
OS/2 Shareware BBS files

I like to remind you to check out the OS/2 Shareware BBS, arguably the oldest site for OS/2 users. Besides, its short file descriptions provide a "briefly noted" update all on their own. If you are not currently a subscriber, you can join at www.os2bbs.com/download/register.html

- IP8603H.ZIP. IP8603H: A fix for WSeB, HPFS386 component only.
- DNEW54C3.ZIP. DNEWS v5.4 C3: A news server.
- VACBDBG.ZIP. A beta debugger for VisualAge CPP (VAC) v3.0
- IP08603.ZIP. IP08603: A fix for WSeB LAN Server 5.2 components
- SCACH049.ZIP. Java/Smart Cache 0.49

HTTP proxy server, anonymizer and filter. Good for offline browsing.
- RXSWQRY.ZIP. RxSwitchQuery 1.0: A REXX extension DLL for querying the OS/2 system WinSwitchList.
- SCRERESO.ZIP. A REXX utility to read the configured vertical, horizontal screen resolution and the number of colors.
- TNEF015.ZIP. Unpacks MIME attachments of type "application/ms-tnef."
- PAUSESEC.ZIP. PauseSec is a utility to pause a session for n seconds.
- KVEC256.ZIP. KVEC 2.56 for OS/2 is a command line utility for converting raster graphics to vector graphics and vice versa. Supports (input) Tiff, BMP, ART, GIF, WMF. Output formats: WMF, Postscript, DXF, HPGL, ART, BMP, Tiff. No installation required.
- LSRXU204.ZIP: Warp Server REXX Utility v2.0.4 (INF + DLL).
- IP08532.ZIP. LAN server 5.0 fix (UNI+SMP) for LAN Server 5.0, Warp Server, Warp Server for SMP, Warp Server with WSOD v1.0 + V2.0 (Dec. 2000)
- GU320358.ZIP. 32-bit update of Graham utilities v2.10.8 with TaskMgr v1.04
- GENAU31.ZIP. A generic WIN-OS2 audio device driver (wave in, wave out, MIDI out) version 3.1 release 0.1.
- FTPS090.ZIP. FTP Server v0.9.0 by Peter Moylan
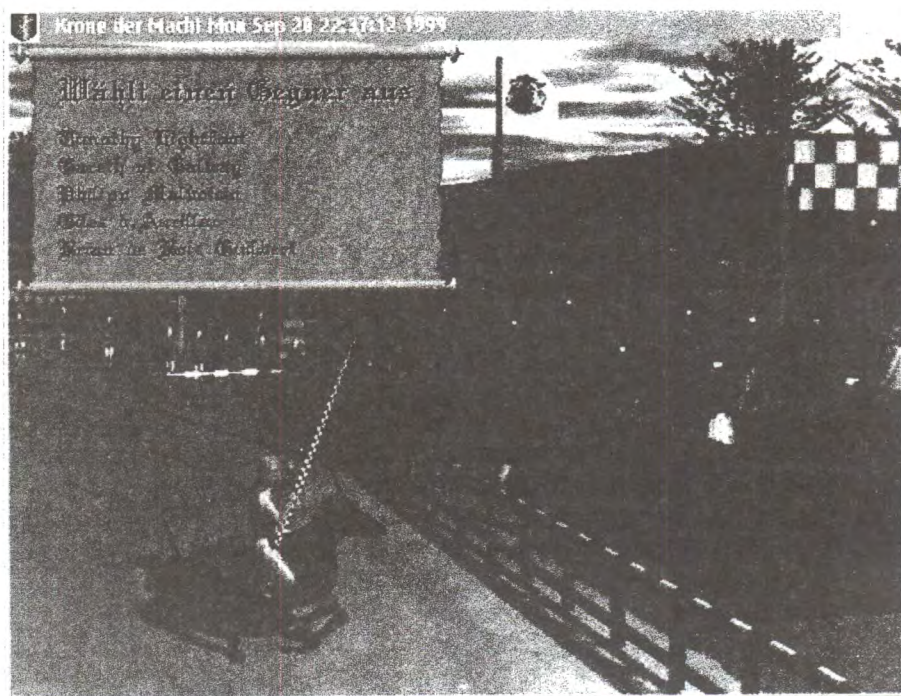- SSTAT.ZIP. SSTATNET, a utility to show

the LAN net session status
- SLAUNC10.ZIP. SmartLaunch 1.0 lets you launch any file object from the command line, via drag and drop. Developed as an add-on to PMSEEK. Requires REXX.
- RXTT31.ZIP. REXX Tips & Tricks v3.10. This document contains useful hints and information about OS/2 REXX. Includes information about literature for REXX, further Software for REXX, hints & tips for OS/2 commands, hints & tips for REXX commands and functions, more.
- RXNETERR.ZIP. A REXX utility to read and clear LAN error messages from OS/2 servers
- REXXREF.ZIP. A classic REXX course, in 180 lessons, as HTML files
- FWE225.ZIP. Future Wave Editor v.2.25, Text editor (also see www.future-wave.co.jp/FWE_e.htm)
- DOSV506.ZIP. Lotus Domino Server (Global Edition) v5.0.6
- DOLS506.ZIP. Lotus Domino Server v5.0.6 (Domino Offline Services-DOLS). Must be installed with Lotus Domino Server (DOSV506.ZIP) v5.0.6 Global Edition
- ASTAT.ZIP. A LAN utility to read the permanent node name, table of local names, maximum data packet size, Network Control Block(NBC), packet transfer and receive and similar details.

Crown of Might 1.06

Crown of Might 1.06 is a native OS/2 game set in Medieval England. It's the age of chivalry! King Richard has been assassinated, England needs a new King, and the Royal Crown has been stolen. A civil war breaks out—and so begins the battle among six Lords to take over all of England.

You get to join the action as a Saxon lord. Starting with one castle and a tiny army, you must conquer other counties to boost your income and army. You fight computer simulated battles, fire a catapult at castle walls, raid enemy castles, send

spies, go jousting and perhaps you get the chance to rescue a beautiful maiden in distress.

The native OS/2 shareware application has DIVE support for fast screen display, 640 x 480 pixel resolution throughout the game, and sound output in 16 bit resolution. Music output is optimized for Wavetable and FM—and the vendor advertises the application as "Year 1200 ready."

Find it at www.admoore.de.

PM Fax now at CDS

Keller Group (www.kellergroup.com) turned over development to Computer Data Strategies (CDS, www.cds-inc.com), the maker of BackAgain/2000.

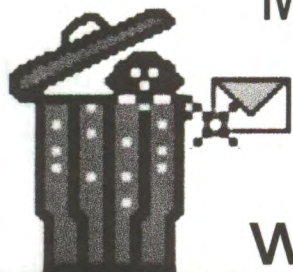Following from an email by Mark Ahlstrom, of The Keller Group:

"I regret to announce that Bruce Keller has decided to leave Keller for personal reasons. Because Keller Group consists of a development half (Bruce) and a business/support half (me), this will have a significant impact on the company.

"To provide ongoing support and product availability for PMfax products, I have arranged for an experienced OS/2 software vendor, Computer Data Strategies (www.cds-inc.com), to assume the support, distribution and development of the PMfax products. Our Web site will keep everyone informed of these changes as they happen over the coming weeks.

"Bruce's departure will unavoidably impact PMfax development plans for PMfax Pro for OS/2 v4, and I'm specifically contacting you in advance of the transfer to CDS because you may have purchased your copy of PMfax Pro for OS/2 v3.2 with the expectation of also receiving the OS/2 v4 upgrade. While CDS plans to continue PMfax development, the details and schedules are not known at this time and I can't promise that PMfax Pro for OS/2 v4 will be available." (t)

Junk Spy
banishes junk email

Make Junk Spy your secret agent
in the war against spam.

www.sundialsystems.com

Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc
5515 N 7th St, PMB 5-133
Phoenix, AZ 85014-2531

Phoenix
OS/2
Society

#375 — Expires 04/2001

Join the Phoenix OS/2 Society

We're the largest international organization supporting OS/2 users, OS/2 software developers, and OS/2 friends. (Not even IBM can say that — they don't support OS/2 users!) When you become a member of the Society, you get:

- A subscription to our award-winning magazine, extended attributes
- Access to discounts and special offers to members
- Free access to our email list server
- A chance to take part in various Society events
- The knowledge that you're not alone in a sea of Windows users

You can join by filling in and mailing the card in the center of the magazine. Or you can join online by going to http://www.possi.org/mem.html and following the links to BMT.

Don't miss out — join today!